

OST-95-950-7

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BEFORE THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
1991 FEB 19 PM 4:52  
DOCKET SECTION

(6516)  
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In the matter of )

Aviation Security: )

Passenger Manifest Information )

Docket 47383

COMMENTS OF LINEAS AEREAS PARAGUAYAS

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February 19, 1990

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COMMENTS OF LINEAS AEREAS PARAGUAYAS

Lineas Aereas Paraguayas (LAP) is the flag carrier of Paraguay. LAP currently operates service between Asuncion, Paraguay and Miami, Florida pursuant to a foreign air carrier permit issued by the Department in accordance with the Air Transport Services Agreement between the United States and Paraguay. In response to the request for comments contained in the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM), published in the Federal Register on January 31, 1991 (56 Fed. Reg. 3810) LAP hereby states its strong objection to any requirement that it comply with additional passenger manifest requirements.

It is LAP's understanding that the specific passenger manifest requirements which the Department is considering would, if implemented, require carriers to obtain each passenger's full

name, passport number, and the name and telephone number of a contact for each passenger. LAP further understands that, although the U.S. Congress has mandated these requirements with respect to U.S. carriers, it has only requested that the Department "consider" whether similar requirements should be made applicable to foreign carriers such as LAP. In this connection, LAP respectfully submits that (1) whatever policy grounds may support application of these passenger manifest requirements to U.S. carriers are not applicable to and do not warrant extension of these requirements to foreign carriers, and (2) that any such extension to foreign carriers would subject such carriers and their passengers to unnecessary and unwarranted financial and administrative costs.

As described in the ANPRM, the primary purpose of the proposed passenger manifest requirement is to provide sufficient information to the U.S. Department of State to enable that agency to respond to inquiries from concerned relatives of passengers in the event of an aviation disaster. While such a purpose may make sense with respect to U.S. carriers, LAP respectfully submits that imposition of passenger manifest requirements on a carrier such as LAP would serve no logical purpose.

For one thing, LAP seriously questions whether many, if any, concerned relatives would expect the U.S. State Department to have immediate passenger information in the event of an

aviation disaster affecting a flight of a Paraguayan carrier such as LAP. Under these circumstances, LAP questions whether such relatives would even think to contact the State Department. LAP submits such an inquiry would be unusual, to say the least, even in the case of a U.S. citizen passenger. An inquiry to the U.S. State Department would be even less likely if the passenger were a citizen of Paraguay, or of a third country, as are many of LAP's passengers. In this connection, LAP respectfully submits that the small likelihood that any inquiries regarding LAP passengers would ever be directed to the U.S. State Department negates any justification for imposing manifest requirements on foreign carriers such as LAP.

The argument against imposing such requirements on foreign carriers such as LAP is bolstered by consideration of the financial costs and administrative burdens which would inevitably accompany any such requirements. At a minimum, extending the proposed requirements to foreign carriers would require LAP to hire additional check-in and reservation staff to compile the additional required passenger information. These additional personnel represent unjustified and unnecessary expenditures which would be especially troubling during the current period of decreased international travel and decreased revenue for international carriers. Moreover, LAP submits that the additional processing time necessary to record that information

would increase delays and crowding at already overtaxed international airports.

In conclusion LAP respectfully submits that extending the proposed passenger manifest requirements to foreign carriers such as LAP would impose unnecessary costs on foreign carriers in return for little or no benefit. Accordingly, LAP respectfully requests the Department of Transportation to refrain from applying any additional passenger manifest requirements to foreign air carriers such as Lineas Aereas Paraguayas.

Respectfully submitted,



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